Steel Policy it has been envisaged that by 2019-20 the country would attain an indigenous production of 110 million metric tones of finished (carbon) steel and the domestic demand for the same by that time would be 90 million metric tonnes.

(b) It has been estimated in the National Steel Policy that in order to achieve an indigenous production of 110 million metric tonnes of finished (carbon) steel 190 million metric tonnes of iron-ore would be required.

(c) The in-situ reserves of relatively rich iron ore in India are 11.43 billion tonnes of haematite and 10.68 billion tonnes of magnetite ores.

(d) The name of the States in the country having iron-ore mines/producing iron ore are Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Goa, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa and Rajasthan. As per Ministry of Mines, it is estimated that based on a steel production target of 110 million tones by 2020 these reserves should last for 125 years.

Greenfields Projects

436. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many large international steel companies have approached Government with proposals for Greenfield projects across India;

(b) if so, whether Government have formulated any policy to grant mining rights of iron ore to the foreign companies;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether the policy also covers right to exports iron ore by foreign companies?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) As per the available information, two large international steel companies have signed Memorandum of Understanding one each with the State Governments of Orissa and Jharkhand to set up mega steel projects in these States.

(b) and (c) The Government had announced its National Mineral Policy for non-fuel and non-atomic minerals in 1993 and it is still in operation. In

accordance with the Policy, mining in Iron ore sector has been opened up for private investment including Foreign Direct Investment.

(d) The policy envisages that foreign trade of minerals will keep in view the mineral inventory position and the long-term need of the country. Wherever, exports take place these should be competitive and efforts will be directed towards exports of minerals in value added form to the extent possible.

Reservation of Iron Ore for PSUs

437. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the known reserves of iron ore in the country, State-wise, including Andhra Pradesh;

(b) whether it is a fact that certain proportion of these ore being reserved for Central PSUs and the State PSUs; and

(c) if so, the details there of and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Iron Ore

†438. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that keeping in view the deposits of the iron ore in the country there may arise the crisis of raw material before the steel producing projects in the country;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto;

(c) the deposits of the iron ore in the country at present; and

(d) the annual likely demand of the steel of this steel producing projects in the country during the ensuing 20 years?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) As per Indian Bureau of Mines the estimated reserves of iron ore, based on UNFC

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.